



The community is invited to Civics Day on Saturday, March 18 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Town Hall. This event is free and great for all-ages.

The Town is taking the opportunity to devote the day to inviting the public to interact with town government. The idea of civics may remind us of a time when school children learned about forms government and were instilled with a responsibility to participate. While the basics of federal and state government are still taught, local participatory government, or how things actually get done in our neighborhoods, is sometimes a mystery to residents.

This event is hosted by your town departments. You'll meet police officers, Public Works employees, Health and Human Services Department program staff and many more. To keep up with the news, visit the Town's website, sign up for Town notices, and follow the Town of Arlington MA on Face Book.

Captain James Curran leads the Community Services Division of Arlington's Police Department. According to Captain Curran, "Civics Day is an opportunity to show how much we appreciate our community and the people we serve." Police officers will display their vehicles in the Town Hall parking lot for the public to see the latest technologies.

There's a lot of information residents need to know, and Town departments are interested in getting that information out there. In addition to electronic channels such as the Town's website, email notices and social media feeds, hosting community events is another important way residents get to know their Town's employees and the roles they play in civic life.

"We're connecting the dots between the work our Town government does and the residents who find it meaningful," adds Adam Kurowski, the Town's Director of Geographic Information Systems.

Charlotte Milan, Recycling Coordinator with Public Works, thinks this is a good moment for a civics-oriented community event. "*Government* happens far away by people we don't know. *Town government* happens at the end of our driveways and in town center by people we might see at the grocery store," says Milan, "Creating opportunities for mutual learning and listening helps build public trust and collaboration."

"The Department of Health and Human Services is enthusiastic about connecting residents with important services to improve the health, safety, and well-being of our community," according to Health Compliance Officer Kylee Sullivan. Divisions of the Department participating in Civics Day include the Board of Health, the Council on Aging, Veterans Services, and the Food Pantry. Sullivan adds, "We hope to see you there!"

Keep up with the activities happening at Civics Day by visiting <http://www.arlingtonma.gov>